

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|
| 1 | 1. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 2. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 3. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 4. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 5. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 6. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 7. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 8. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 9. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 10. | (Cancelled) |
| 1 | 11. | (Cancelled) |

1 12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Cancelled)

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (New) A furnace comprising:
2 a housing forming an enclosure;
3 a heating means for heating the enclosure;
4 an opening formed in the housing; and
5 a vertical rotating means disposed in the enclosure.

1 22. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, wherein the vertical
2 rotating means comprise a pair of rotating chains carrying a plurality of trays at
3 respective tray apexes and a pair of fixed rings carrying the plurality of trays at
4 respective tray bases.

1 23. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pair of
2 rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings have geometric centers vertically
3 offset from each other.

1 24. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the plurality of
2 trays are attached to the pair of rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings by a
3 four bar linkage.

1 25. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the plurality of
2 trays are alternatively accessible through the opening.

1 26. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pair of
2 rotating chains are disposed in a top portion of the enclosure and the pair of
3 fixed rings are disposed in the bottom portion of the enclosure.

1 27. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pair of
2 rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings are circular.

1 28. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pair of
2 rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings are elliptical.

1 29. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pair of
2 rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings have an irregular shape.

1 30. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 22, wherein the tray bases
2 are maintained in a horizontal orientation by the pair of fixed rings.

1 31. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, wherein the vertical
2 rotating means comprises a motor.

1 32. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a
2 heat exchanger.

1 33. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a
2 flux pot.

1 34. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a
2 wave soldering unit.

1 35. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 21, wherein the vertical
2 rotating means comprise a pair of rotating rings carrying a plurality of trays at
3 respective tray apexes and a pair of fixed rings carrying the plurality of trays at
4 respective tray bases.

1 36. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 35, wherein the pair of
2 rotating rings and the pair of fixed rings have geometric centers vertically offset
3 from each other.

1 37. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 35, wherein the plurality of
2 trays are attached to the pair of rotating rings and the pair of fixed rings by a
3 four bar linkage.

1 38. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 35, wherein the pair of
2 rotating rings are disposed in a top portion of the enclosure and the pair of fixed
3 rings are disposed in the bottom portion of the enclosure.

1 39. (New) A furnace comprising:
2 a housing forming an enclosure;
3 an opening formed in the housing; and

4 a pair of rotating chains carrying a plurality of trays at respective
5 tray apexes and a pair of fixed rings carrying the plurality of trays at respective
6 tray bases, the pair of rotating chains and the pair of fixed rings being disposed
7 in the enclosure.

1 40. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 39, wherein the fixed rings
2 comprise a web-type frame.

1 41. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a
2 heating means for heating the enclosure.

 42. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a
flux pot.

 43. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a
wave soldering unit.

 44. (New) A furnace comprising:
 a housing forming an enclosure;
 an opening formed in the housing; and
 a pair of rotating rings carrying a plurality of trays at respective tray
5 apexes and a pair of fixed rings carrying the plurality of trays at respective tray
bases, the pair of rotating rings and the pair of fixed rings being disposed in the
enclosure.

 45. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 44, wherein the fixed rings
comprise a web-type frame.

 46. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a
heating means for heating the enclosure.

47. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a flux pot.

48. (New) The furnace as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a wave soldering unit.

1 49. (New) A method of carrying out a processing step on an item to be
2 processed comprising the steps of:
3 providing a furnace having a housing forming an enclosure, an
4 opening formed in the housing, a heating means for heating the enclosure, and
5 a vertical rotating means disposed in the enclosure; and
6 rotating the item to be processed within the enclosure.